

# Soldiers win medals at World Championships

By Sara Greenlee

USA Shooting

LONATO, Italy - Several Soldiers of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit of Fort Benning, Ga., took home medals from the 2005 International Shooting Sport Federation World Shotgun Championships, which were conducted May 26 to 30.

Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class James Todd Graves of the Army Marksmanship Unit took the Bronze Medal in the Men's Skeet Championships with a score of 146 out of a possible 150 and an impressive 26 in the tiebreaker to beat Abdullah Alrashidi of Kuwait May 30. Graves also won a Quota Slot for the USA to compete at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, China.

Sixteen-year-old Vincent Hancock of Eatonton, Ga., continued his domination in the world of international skeet shooting with a Gold Medal win at his World Championship debut. Hancock won with a 148 total score, just one target ahead of Ennio Falco of Italy, who got the Silver Medal.

The U.S. Men's Skeet Team finished second in the team standings with a 355 total team score, losing in the tie-breaking procedure to Norway. The U.S. Silver Medal Team was made up of Hancock, Graves and USAMU's Sgt. Mark Weeks.

Skeet shooter J.P. Gougler of College Station, Texas, just missed the medal stand for the USA in the junior category. Gougler hit a 117 to tie for third, but couldn't hold on for the Bronze, as he hit a three in tiebreaker and lost to Germany's Frank Dittmer, who hit a four.

Gougler led the U.S. junior team to a fourth place finish in the team standings, with Mark Muzyka of Dover, Mass., and Kent Vail of Colorado Springs, Colo., rounding out the team members. Italy, France and Finland made up the first, second and third place team medalists, respectively.

In Women's Skeet, which finished May 29, 20-year-old Haley Dunn of Eddyville, Iowa, just missed the final round, finishing with a score of 69. Dunn was able to get the U.S. Team up to the medal stand for the Bronze Medal in the women's skeet team event, though, with two-time Olympian Connie Smotek of Lyons, Texas, and Brandie Neal of Spencer, Ind., shooting for that U.S. Team.

USAMU's Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Theresa E. DeWitt of Smiths Station, Ala., did not have the same luck, however, although, she only missed the finals by one shot, shooting a 67 in Women's Trap. The U.S.

Women's Trap Team, comprised of DeWitt, Emma Simpson of Hartsfield, Ga., and Amanda Dorman of Colorado Springs, Colo., just couldn't find the medal stand, as they finished sixth overall with a 194 team score.

The USA did make the medal stand in Junior Women's Trap, with Susan Sledge of El Cajon, Calif., winning the Bronze at her first World Championships, and finishing with a 62. Mimi Wilfong of Malakoff, Texas, was right at the cut-off for a medal, hitting a 61 and finishing in fourth. There were no team awards for this event due to the lack of numbers competing.

Pvt. 1 Joshua M. Richmond of Hillsgrove, Pa., won the first Gold Medal for the United States May 26 in Junior Men's Double Trap. Richmond, who has been a shotgun shooter with the USAMU since Feb. 1, won his first World Championship medal with a total score of 132 points, which was five points above his next competitor, Byron Swanton of the Republic of South Africa.

Richmond, 19, also led the USA to the medal stand for a second time, in the Junior Men's Team event. Richmond, Matthew Drexler of Kearney, Mo., and Cory Sidorek of Dallas, Pa., won the Team Bronze Medal with a 366 total team performance. Italy's junior team won the Gold Medal with a 368, while Russia's junior team took the Silver with a 367.

A resident of Hillsgrove, Pa., Richmond joined the Army in October and was assigned to the Army Marksmanship Unit after he completed Basic and Infantry Training at Fort Benning.

In Men's Double Trap, Jeff Holguin of Yorba Linda, Calif., went into the finals tied for second place, but emerged after the 50 target final in fourth. Holguin, a Colorado Springs Olympic Training Center resident athlete, missed nine targets in the finals to finish with a 182 total score. Ahmed Almaktoom of the United Arab Emirates took the Gold with a 189, while China's Nan Wang clinched the Silver with a 187; Jung Hwan Park of Korea got the Bronze with a 185.

Holguin was able to lead the Men's U.S. Double Trap Team to the medal stand along with USAMU's Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Bret E. Erickson of Buena Vista, Ga., and Glenn Eller of Katy, Texas. The Men's Double Trap Team took the Bronze Medal with a 406 total team score. China took Gold in the team event with a 414 and the United Arab Emirates got Silver with a 411.

For more information or full results from the ISSF World Shotgun Championships, log on to [www.issf-shooting.org](http://www.issf-shooting.org) <<http://www.issf-shooting.org>>. For more information on the U.S. Shotgun Team, log on to [www.usashooting.org](http://www.usashooting.org) <<http://www.usashooting.org>>.

*(Formed in 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to raise the standards of marksmanship throughout the U.S. Army, the Army Marksmanship Unit is assigned to the Accessions Support Brigade of the U.S. Army Accessions Command. Accessions Command is charged with overseeing recruiting and training of the Army's enlisted Soldiers and officers. The Marksmanship Unit trains its Soldiers to win competitions and enhances combat readiness through train-the-trainer clinics, research and development. For more information on the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, contact the Public Affairs Office at (706) 545-5436, [paula.pagan@usaac.army.mil](mailto:paula.pagan@usaac.army.mil) or <http://www.usarec.army.mil/hq/amu/>. For more information on USA Shooting, contact media director Sara Greenlee at (719) 866-4896, [sara.greenlee@usashooting.org](mailto:sara.greenlee@usashooting.org) or <http://www.usashooting.com>.)*